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Johnson Restores Crucial Transportation Funding

LANSING – Senator Shirley Johnson, R-Royal Oak, today announced that in conjunction with the “Priorities First” program introduced by Senate Republicans, she has restored funding to 34 critical road projects in Michigan. The “Priorities First” program will allow local communities to continue key road projects which were deferred by Governor Jennifer Granholm’s “Preserve First” initiative.

“Families and businesses in Oakland County are outraged that they have lost all consideration for transportation projects this year,” Johnson said. “The objective criteria used to identify the critical road projects in our area were thrown out the window by Governor Granholm without so much as a phone call. Our population has grown, our roads are in disrepair, we need them fixed now, not after all of Detroit has their roads in good condition.”

The “Priorities First” program will restore funding for two road projects located on I-75, between 8 Mile and M-59, and at the Crooks Road Exit.

The Republican initiative will restore funding for 34 critical road projects, based on objective criteria, as proposed in the 2002 Five Year Road and Bridge program. The restored funding will assist local units of government who have already put time and money into the proposed road construction locations in their communities.

Gov. Granholm’s “Preserve First” program deferred the projects without any notice to state legislators, local governments or road building organizations. Local communities around the state were also shocked by her initiative.

Two public hearings on the deferred road projects have been scheduled to allow local citizens and governments to make their concerns heard. The first hearing will be conducted on Wednesday, April 30 from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Hudsonville City Hall Chambers, 3275 Central Blvd., Hudsonville. The second meeting will take place in Pontiac, Oakland County, with a time and location to be announced later this week.